

Unofficial until adopted by the
Parks and Recreation Commission

September 1, 2016
Action Item III
APPROVE

MINUTES
ALHAMBRA PARKS AND RECREATION
AUGUST 4, 2016

The Alhambra Parks and Recreation Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on August 4, 2016 at the Alhambra Park Bandshell Activity Room, 500 N. Palm Avenue Alhambra, CA 91801
Commission members present: Barnett, Bodeman, Mejia, Mumford, Norrington, Whelan
Commission members absent: Flowers, Lopez, Martinez, Valdez
Also attending: Deputy City Manager / Director of Community Services Martin Ray
Deputy Director Julian Venegas
Deputy Director Michael Macias

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Norrington moved to approve the Minutes of the June 2, 2016 Adjourned Regular Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mejia the motion carried with the following roll call vote.

AYES: Barnett, Bodeman, Mejia, Mumford, Norrington
NOES: None
ABSENT: Flowers, Lopez, Martinez, Valdez
ABSTAIN: Whelan

FACILITY PROGRAMS PRESENTATION – Alhambra Park

Deputy Director Jim Venegas gave an oral presentation of the programs and activities that the Community Programs Division oversees including leisure classes and registration, family excursions, community garden and Summer Serenade concerts in the park. The Community Services Division also hosts special events throughout the city such as the Veterans Day Program, Home Holiday Decorating Contest and Latino Heritage Month. Activities that the Division is involved in or supports are the Pumpkin Run and Wellness Expo at the Joslyn Adult Center.

Commissioner Barnett asked if the Home Holiday Decorating Contest was Christmas themed.

Mr. Venegas replied that it is Holiday decor and residents register to enter their homes in the contest and they are judged based on one of three categories.

Sean McMorris, member of Lawnbowling Club asked how his group can be part of the leisure classes and offer lawnbowling classes to the public. Mr. McMorris clarified the cost of lessons.

Sherri Cabot stated that the time listed was incorrect.

Mr. Venegas stated that any corrections in the description would be corrected in the next issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Ray commented that most of the upcoming events were covered under the presentation given by Mr. Venegas. He stated this Friday will be the last Movie Night at the park. September 10th is the Main Fest event on Main Street which is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

Mr. Ray updated the Commission on the items listed in the report which include upgrading the electrical at the Almansor Park Gym in order to provide HVAC, upgrade the jogging trail lights to LED lighting reconstruct the jogging trail in several areas where the surface has lifted, update the restrooms by the ballfields at Almansor Park, and update the Granada Park restroom. Several of the offices at City Hall have been renovated to address safety issues and to comply with ADA requirements.

Lola Armendariz, resident of Alhambra, asked what the sound system renovation at Alhambra Park consisted of.

Mr. Venegas replied that the sound system was placed underground so that wires do not go across the walkway in front of the bandshell and therefore eliminates a trip and fall situation.

Ms. Armendariz asked who monitors the sound system.

Mr. Ray replied that there is a sound technician as well as city staff on site anytime there is an event going on in the park.

Ms. Armendariz requested that the volume level be kept down. She stated that the City is entertaining the people in the park not the surrounding neighborhood. She asked if there is staff on site during the Movie Nights.

Mr. Ray replied that anytime there is something going on in the City parks there is always staff on site.

Ms. Armendariz stated that regarding the renovations made at City Hall she would suggest that the Community Services Department add a buzzer to their counter and a mirror in order to eliminate the blind spot created by the high panel in the corner where the clerical assistant sits at the front desk.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sonia McIntosh brought up issues relevant to Emery Park and commented that there are still large groups on the weekends who are not following rules and regulations and she does not see any staff monitoring the park. Ms. McIntosh commented that she did not like the way City Hall looks since it has been remodeled because it does not look customer friendly. She asked that the

City address the criminal activity that goes on in her area. Ms. McIntosh mentioned that she had gone to the Farmer's Market in front of City Hall and she enjoyed it.

Mr. Ray commented that tonight is the last night for Thursday's Farmers Market. The Sunday Farmers Market will continue.

Commissioner Bodeman commented that he volunteers for the Alhambra Police Department and they do patrol the Emery Park area in unmarked vehicles three times a week.

Mr. Ray stated that Code Enforcement also goes by the parks on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Sean McMorris commented that the southside parking lot by the tennis courts there were 15-20 parking spaces blocked off on July 4th.

Commissioner Bodeman stated that the Police Department blocked those spaces off for the police volunteers that were working the Fourth of July event.

Cheri Cabot stated that after 5 PM at Almanson Park there is pot smoking by people near the basketball courts.

Commissioner Mejia informed Ms. Cabot to call the non-emergency police phone number and report these incidents.

Ms. Armendariz stated that the residents do not know the hours when code enforcement is on patrol. She stated that there is organized soccer play at Alhambra Park and the kids are running drills up and down the grassy slope on the Raymond side of the park. She stated that the hot weather and limited watering is stressing out the park. Alhambra Park is a passive use park.

Mr. Ray stated that a passive park use means that the City does not program sports there.

Ms. Armendariz brought up concerns which included; the Edison Easement is very dry and staff keeps cutting the dead grass every week, the equipment enclosure by the Alhambra Pool has a cargo container in it and it is very unsightly, the area near the equipment enclosure is very dark at night because there are no lights there, the south end of the parking lot at the Edison Easement near Park School is in need of a trash container.

Mr. Ray commented that where the grass at the Edison Easement is concerned, the City has to abide by the same watering restrictions that the residents do.

COMMISSION ORALS

Commissioner Bodeman invited staff and the public to a free walk/meet and greet sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on August 10, 2016 at 7 PM in the lower lot at Almanson Park.

Mr. Ray requested that Commissioner Bodeman have someone from the Knights of Columbus get in touch with him so that staff is aware of what is going on in the park.

Commissioner Bodeman commented that there is graffiti on the equipment enclosure by the pool, in particular a “save the wolves” sign. The lady who had that sign put up is willing to replace the sign.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bodeman moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mejia, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.